

**Carroll, Rhonda**

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**From:** Lewin/NIFAA <jlewin@nifaa.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 23, 2016 11:43 AM  
**To:** JudTestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony for 2-14 SUPPORT 5344 animal cruelty victims

Dear Co-Chair Coleman, Co-Chair Tong, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

Please accept this as my testimony for the public hearing to be held on 2/24/16.

**SUPPORT HB 5344 An Act Concerning Support for Animals that are Neglected or Treated Cruelly.**

**I've been involved in animal rescue and legislation for many years, so I know there is a strong need for this bill:**

- 1) Research has established strong links between violent behaviors toward humans and violent behaviors toward animals.
- 2) Law enforcement agencies must take violence toward animals seriously, and prosecutions must be encouraged. A disturbing OLR report (2015-R-0262) found that between 2005-15, 80% of animal cruelty offenses were either not prosecuted or dismissed.
- 3) Court advocates for animals would be done at no cost by enlisting volunteer representation for animals from law students and law firms.
- 4) Teaching humans to behave with kindness and respect toward animals will help to build a more humane society.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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